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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,333	03/09/2004	H. Thomas Graef	D-1217 RI	1994
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/796,333	GRAEF ET AL.
	Examiner Leslie A. Nicholson III	Art Unit 3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/2/2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 3/9/2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/23/2005</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a first action on the merits of application 10/796333.

Election/Restrictions

2. The restriction filed 8/11/2005 is hereby withdrawn. All original claims filed 3/9/2004 will be examined.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:

- failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "154" and "164" have both been used to designate the same part in figure 9.
- failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "94" and "80" have both been used to designate the same part in figure 10.
- failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 216, 277

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "middle disk low friction portion... extending radially outward... beyond the middle disk high friction arcuate segment..." must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to due to the following informalities:
 - as provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), each of the section headings should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type
 - reference numeral 245 has been used to designate both a "shaft" and a "spring portion" (P32/L2,3)
 - reference numeral 272 has been used to designate both a "bushing" (P37/L1) and a "tab portion" (P41/L9)

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 15 and 26 are objected to because there appears to be a typographical error in lines 1 and 3 of the claims, respectively. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claim 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 1, the written description does not appear to disclose the "middle disk low friction portion... extending radially outward... beyond the middle disk high friction arcuate segment...".

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-27 are not distinct as to what the applicant is claiming by including the apparatus limitations (ie: "...the picking member has in supporting connection therewith a middle disk portion and a first outboard disk portion...") within the method claim. It is recommended that the apparatus limitations be recited using a method step (ie: "...providing a picking member, a middle disk portion in supporting connection therewith, a first outboard disk portion..."). See MPEP 2173.05(p).

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the stalk" in line 7 of step (d) of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It appears as though the intended word is "stack" and will be interpreted accordingly.

Claim 13 recites "...a first flange portion extends... radially outward beyond...". It is unclear what this recitation means. Is the intended word "outward"? The claim will be interpreted to recite "outward" rather than "outboard".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

10. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

11. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are directed to neither a method nor an apparatus (see ¶9) but rather embrace or overlap two statutory classes of invention. See MPEP 2173.05(p).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 17-27, as best understood by the examiner (see ¶5,9,11), are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Graef USPub 2001/0042292.

Regarding claim 17, Graef discloses a similar method comprising:

- a) in an automated banking machine (10) including a stack of sheets (42), engaging an end sheet bounding the stack with a movable high friction picker surface (116), wherein the high friction picker surface engages a first side of the end sheet (¶0064)
- b) moving the high friction picker surface to urge the end sheet to move along a first direction into engagement with a stripping surface (96), wherein the stripping surface acts on a leading edge area and a second side of the end sheet opposed of the first side in a stripping area and resists movement of the end sheet from the stack, and generally prevents sheets other than the end sheet from moving from the stack and between the picker surface and the stripping surface (¶0006,0062,0063) (fig.14)
- c) during at least a portion of (b) engaging the end sheet with a projecting surface in supporting connection with the picking surface and transversely adjacent to the stripping area (fig.6)

Regarding claim 18, Graef further discloses the method wherein the picking surface comprises a high friction arcuate segment (116) supported on a rotating cylindrical portion, and wherein in (b) the rotating cylindrical portion rotates in a first rotational direction (¶0005) (fig.2).

Regarding claim 19, Graef further discloses the method wherein in (c) the projecting surface engages the end sheet as the leading edge area moves intermediate of the picker surface and the stripping surface (¶0005,0064) (fig.2).

Regarding claim 20, Graef further discloses the method wherein the picker surface comprises a surface of a high friction arcuate segment supported on a rotatable first cylindrical portion, and wherein the projecting portion comprises a low friction arcuate segment (118) supported on the first cylindrical portion transversely disposed of the high friction arcuate segment, wherein in (b) and in (c) the cylindrical portion rotates in a first direction (¶0064).

Regarding claim 21, Graef further discloses the method during at least a portion of (b) and subsequent to (c) further comprising (d) disengaging the end sheet from the projecting surface (¶0064).

Regarding claim 22, Graef further discloses the method further comprising a picker member wherein the picker member comprises the first cylindrical portion, and wherein the picker member includes at least one outboard high friction arcuate portion (120) transversely disposed from the high friction arcuate segment, and further comprising (e) during at least a portion of (d) engaging the end sheet with the at least one outboard

high friction arcuate portion, wherein such engagement urges the end sheet to move in the first direction (¶0064,0065) (fig.2,3).

Regarding claim 23, Graef further discloses the method wherein the picker member comprises a pair of outboard cylindrical portions (92,94) transversely disposed from the first cylindrical portion, and wherein each of the outboard cylindrical portions includes one of the outboard high friction arcuate portions (120,124), and wherein in (e) the end note is engaged with the outboard high friction arcuate portions on the outboard cylindrical portions (fig.2) (¶0065).

Regarding claim 24, Graef further discloses the method subsequent to (e) further comprising engaging the end sheet with a carry away roll (86), wherein the carry away roll urges the end sheet to move away from the stack (¶0060) (fig.5,6).

Regarding claim 25, Graef further discloses the method wherein in (e) the end sheet is moved between the carry away roll and the first cylindrical portion (fig.5,6).

Regarding claim 26, Graef further discloses the method wherein the first cylindrical portion includes a resilient band (110) extending circumferentially thereon, and wherein the resilient band includes the high friction arcuate segment engages (see ¶4) by the end note in (a).

Regarding claim 27, Graef further discloses the method prior to (b), further comprising receiving at least one input from a user corresponding to a request for cash through at least one input device of the automated banking machine, and subsequent to (f) delivering the end sheet to the user (¶0003,0043).

14. Claims 17-25, as best understood by the examiner (see ¶5,9,11), are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiura USP 6,186,490.

Regarding claim 17, Sugiura discloses a similar method comprising:

- a) in an automated banking machine including a stack of sheets, engaging an end sheet bounding the stack with a movable high friction picker surface (22), wherein the high friction picker surface engages a first side of the end sheet (C5/L49-55) (fig.2,5).
- b) moving the high friction picker surface to urge the end sheet to move along a first direction into engagement with a stripping surface (3), wherein the stripping surface acts on a leading edge area and a second side of the end sheet opposed of the first side in a stripping area and resists movement of the end sheet from the stack, and generally prevents sheets other than the end sheet from moving from the stack and between the picker surface and the stripping surface (fig.2) (C3/L48-53)
- c) during at least a portion of (b) engaging the end sheet with a projecting surface in supporting connection with the picking surface and transversely adjacent to the stripping area (fig.2)

Regarding claim 18, Sugiura further discloses the method wherein the picking surface comprises a high friction arcuate segment (22) supported on a rotating cylindrical portion (2), and wherein in (b) the rotating cylindrical portion rotates in a first rotational direction (fig.2).

Regarding claim 19, Sugiura further discloses the method wherein in (c) the projecting surface engages the end sheet as the leading edge area moves intermediate of the picker surface and the stripping surface (fig.2).

Regarding claim 20, Sugiura further discloses the method wherein the picker surface comprises a surface of a high friction arcuate segment (22) supported on a rotatable first cylindrical portion, and wherein the projecting portion comprises a low friction arcuate segment supported on the first cylindrical portion transversely disposed of the high friction arcuate segment, wherein in (b) and in (c) the cylindrical portion rotates in a first direction (C5/L49-55) (fig.2).

Regarding claim 21, Sugiura further discloses the method during at least a portion of (b) and subsequent to (c) further comprising (d) disengaging the end sheet from the projecting surface (C4/L2-8).

Regarding claim 22, Sugiura further discloses the method further comprising a picker member (4) wherein the picker member comprises the first cylindrical portion, and wherein the picker member includes at least one outboard high friction arcuate portion (7) transversely disposed from the high friction arcuate segment, and further comprising (e) during at least a portion of (d) engaging the end sheet with the at least one outboard high friction arcuate portion, wherein such engagement urges the end sheet to move in the first direction (fig.1,2) (C4/L2-8,39-44).

Regarding claim 23, Sugiura further discloses the method wherein the picker member comprises a pair of outboard cylindrical portions (4) transversely disposed from the first cylindrical portion, and wherein each of the outboard cylindrical portions

includes one of the outboard high friction arcuate portions (7) and wherein in (e) the end note is engaged with the outboard high friction arcuate portions on the outboard cylindrical portions (fig.1,2).

Regarding claim 24, Graef further discloses the method subsequent to (e) further comprising engaging the end sheet with a carry away roll (8), wherein the carry away roll urges the end sheet to move away from the stack (fig.1) (C3/L55-57, C4/L2-8).

Regarding claim 25, Graef further discloses the method wherein in (e) the end sheet is moved between the carry away roll and the first cylindrical portion (fig.2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 1-11, as best understood by the examiner (see ¶7,9,11), is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiura USP 6,186,490 in view of Boucher USP 6,655,679.

Sugiura discloses a similar method comprising:

- a) engaging an end note bounding a stack of notes (11) in an automated banking machine (C1/L4-7) with a rotatable picking member, wherein the picking member is rotatable about a first axis, and wherein the picking member has in supporting connection therewith a middle disk portion (2) and a first outboard disk portion

disposed (4) on a first axial side of the middle disk portion, and a second outboard disk portion (4) disposed on a second axial side of the middle disk portion opposed of the first axial side (fig.1,2)

- b) rotating the picking member about the first axis in a first rotational direction to a first rotational position, wherein the end note is engaged with a middle disk high friction arcuate segment (20,22) in supporting connection with the middle disk portion, and a stripping member (3) in opposed biased relation with the middle disk high friction arcuate segment, wherein the middle disk high friction arcuate segment and the stripping member apply opposing forces to the end note in a stripping area (C3/L46-53), and wherein in the first rotational position the end note is further engaged with a middle disk low friction arcuate projecting portion in supporting connection with the middle disk portion (C5/L4-8), and wherein in the first rotational position the middle disk low friction arcuate projecting portion engages the end note in a support area axially disposed on the middle disk portion of the stripping area, and wherein in the first rotational position of the picking member the end note is in engagement with a first outboard disk low friction portion in supporting connection with the first outboard disk portion and a second outboard disk low friction portion in supporting connection with the second outboard disk portion (C5/L4-14,49-52; C6/L2-18,35-37)
- c) rotating the picking member in the first rotational direction about the first rotational position to a second rotational position, wherein in the second rotational position the end note is engaged with the middle disk high friction

arcuate segment (20,22) and the stripping member, and wherein in the second rotational position the low friction arcuate projecting portion does not extend radially outward beyond the middle disk high friction arcuate segment when in engagement with the end note in the support area, and wherein in the second rotational position the end note is in engagement with a first outboard disk high friction segment (7) in supporting connection with the first outboard disk portion and a second outboard disk high friction segment (7) in supporting connection with the second outboard disk portion (fig.4,5) (C6/L2-35)

- d) rotating the picking member in the first rotational direction about the second rotational position, wherein the end note moves relative to other notes the stack in engagement with the middle disk high friction arcuate segment, the first outboard disk high friction segment, the second outboard disk high friction segment and in intermediate relation of the middle disk high friction arcuate segment and the stripping member, whereby the end note is generally separated from the stalk (C3/L34-45) (fig.10)

Sugiura does not expressly disclose the middle disk low friction arcuate projection portion extending radially outward relative to the first axis beyond the middle disk high friction arcuate segment.

Boucher teaches the middle disk low friction arcuate projection portion (26) extending radially outward relative to the first axis beyond the middle disk high friction arcuate segment (28) (fig.3) for the purpose of feeding notes by way of a select portion of the picking member in its rotation (C5/L20-65).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the middle disk low friction arcuate projection portion extending radially outward relative to the first axis beyond the middle disk high friction arcuate segment, as taught by Boucher, in the method of Sugiura, for the purpose of feeding notes by way of a select portion of the picking member in its rotation.

Regarding claim 2, Sugiura discloses the method further comprising (e) after the end note moves into intermediate relation of the middle disk portion and stripping member, engaging the end note with at least one carry away member (8), and moving the end note in engagement with the at least one carry away member (C3/L55-57, C5/L44-48, C7/L11-15) (fig.1,2,3).

Regarding claim 3, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the at least one carry away member is in engagement with the picking member, wherein in (e) the at least one carry away member rotates responsive to rotation of the picking member (C3/L55-57, C7/L11-15) (fig.1,2,3).

Regarding claim 4, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the at least one carry away member is in opposed generally abutting relation with at least one of the middle disk portion, first outboard disk portion, and second outboard disk portion, and wherein in (e) the end note moves in intermediate relation between the at least one carry away member and the at least one middle disk portion, first outboard disk portion and second outboard disk portion (C5/L44-48) (fig.3).

Regarding claim 5, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the at least one carry away member is in opposed abutting relation with the middle disk portion, and wherein

in (e) the end note moves in intermediate relation of the middle disk portion and the at least one carry away member (C5/L44-48) (fig.2,3).

Regarding claim 6, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the at least one middle disk portion, first outboard disk portion and second outboard disk portion has at least one resilient drive arcuate segment supported thereon, wherein in (e) the end note moves in intermediate relation of the at least one carry away member and the at least one drive arcuate segment (C3/L34-45, C4/L23-30, C5/L44-48) (fig.4,5).

Regarding claim 7, Sugiura discloses the method further comprising (f) moving the at least one carry away member through engagement with the at least one drive arcuate segment at a time when the end note does not extend in intermediate relation between the carry away member and drive arcuate segment (C3/L34-45, C4/L23-30, C5/L4-14) (fig.4,5).

Regarding claim 8, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the at least one drive arcuate segment extends a full circumference of the at least one middle disk portion, first outboard disk portion and second outboard disk portion, and wherein in (e) the end note is engaged in intermediate relation of a first portion of the at least one drive arcuate segment, and wherein in (e) the carry away member is engaged with a second portion of the at least one drive arcuate segment (C3/L34-45, C4/L23-30, C5/L4-14) (fig.2,4,5).

Regarding claim 9, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the first portion of the at least one drive arcuate segment with which the note is engaged in (e), is integral with the middle disk high friction arcuate segment (fig.4).

Regarding claim 10, Sugiura discloses the method wherein the at least one drive arcuate segment comprises a continuous segment extending about the middle disk portion, wherein the at least one carry away member is disposed in a first rotational position relative to the stripping member, and wherein in (e) the end note moves in intermediate relation between the middle disk portion and the carry away member (fig.2,4) (C5/L44-48).

Regarding claim 11, Sugiura discloses the method wherein at least one of the first outboard disk portion and second outboard disk portion comprises at least one low friction arcuate segment angularly disposed relative to the first outboard disk high friction segment and second outboard disk high friction segment, and prior to (a) further comprising (g) engaging the end note with the at least one low friction arcuate segment (fig.2,4,5) (C5/L4-8,44-48).

17. Claim 12, as best understood by the examiner (see ¶7,9,11), is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiura USP 6,186,490 in view of Boucher USP 6,655,679 in further view of DiBlasio USP 4,474,365.

Sugiura discloses all the limitations of the claim (see ¶15), and further discloses a method wherein the first outboard disk portion comprises a continuous resilient first band extending circumferentially thereon, and wherein the continuous resilient first band includes the first outboard disk high friction segment but does not expressly disclose the first outboard disk portion including at least one first flange portion extending

transversely of the first band and radially outward beyond the first resilient band, and wherein the end note is engaged with the at least one first flange portion.

DiBlasio teaches the first outboard disk portion including at least one first flange portion extending transversely of the first band and radially outward beyond the first resilient band, and wherein the end note is engaged with the at least one first flange portion (fig.4) (C5/L47-53) for the purpose of the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the first outboard disk portion including at least one first flange portion extending transversely of the first band and radially outward beyond the first resilient band, and wherein the end note is engaged with the at least one first flange portion, as taught by DiBlasio, in the method of Sugiura, for the purpose of the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

Regarding claim 13, Sugiura discloses all the limitations of the claim, but does not expressly disclose a method wherein a first flange portion extends on each transverse side of and radially outboard beyond the first band, wherein in (g) the end note is engaged with a first flange portion on each side of the first band.

DiBlasio teaches the first flange portion extending on each transverse side of and radially outboard beyond the first band, wherein in (g) the end note is engaged with a first flange portion on each side of the first band (fig.4) (C5/L47-53) for the purpose of

the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the first flange portion extend on each transverse side of and radially outward beyond the first band, wherein the end note is engaged with a first flange portion on each side of the first band, as taught by DiBlasio, in the method of Sugiura, for the purpose of the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

Regarding claim 14, Sugiura discloses all the limitations of the claim, but does not expressly disclose a method wherein the second outboard disk portion comprises a continuous resilient second band extending circumferentially thereon, wherein the continuous resilient second band includes the second outboard disk high friction segment, and wherein the second outboard disk portion includes at least one second flange portion extending transversely of the second band, and wherein in (g) the end note is engaged with the second flange portion.

DiBlasio teaches the second outboard disk portion comprising a continuous resilient second band extending circumferentially thereon, wherein the continuous resilient second band includes the second outboard disk high friction segment, and wherein the second outboard disk portion includes at least one second flange portion extending transversely of the second band, and wherein in (g) the end note is engaged with the second flange portion (fig.4) (C5/L47-53) for the purpose of the stripping

member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have the second outboard disk portion comprise a continuous resilient second band extending circumferentially thereon, wherein the continuous resilient second band includes the second outboard disk high friction segment, and wherein the second outboard disk portion includes at least one second flange portion extending transversely of the second band, and wherein the end note is engaged with the second flange portion, as taught by DiBlasio, in the method of Sugiura, for the purpose of the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

Regarding claim 15, Sugiura discloses all the limitations of the claim, but does not expressly disclose a method wherein a pair of first flange portions extends on each transverse side and radially outward beyond the first band on the first outboard disk portion, and wherein one of a pair of second flange portions extends on each transverse side and radially outward beyond the second band on the second outboard disk portion, and wherein in (g) the end note is engaged with first flange portions on each transverse side of the first band and second flange portions on each transverse side of the second band.

DiBlasio teaches a pair of first flange portions extending on each transverse side and radially outward beyond the first band on the first outboard disk portion, and wherein one of a pair of second flange portions extends on each transverse side and

radially outward beyond the second band on the second outboard disk portion, and wherein in (g) the end note is engaged with first flange portions on each transverse side of the first band and second flange portions on each transverse side of the second band (fig.4) (C5/L47-53) for the purpose of the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have a pair of first flange portions extend on each transverse side and radially outward beyond the first band on the first outboard disk portion, and wherein one of a pair of second flange portions extends on each transverse side and radially outward beyond the second band on the second outboard disk portion, and wherein the end note is engaged with first flange portions on each transverse side of the first band and second flange portions on each transverse side of the second band, as taught by DiBlasio, in the method of Sugiura, for the purpose of the stripping member overlapping the outer periphery of the first outboard disk portion to facilitate a more effective contact of the note.

18. Claim 16, as best understood by the examiner (see ¶7,9,11), is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiura USP 6,186,490 in view of Boucher USP 6,655,679 and DiBlasio USP 4,474,365 in further view of Beskitt USP 6,331,000.

Sugiura discloses all the limitations of the claim (see ¶17), but does not expressly disclose further comprising receiving from a user at least one input through at least one

input device of the automated banking machine, the at least one input corresponding to a request for cash, and subsequent to (d), dispensing the end note from the automated banking machine to the user.

Beskitt teaches receiving from a user at least one input through at least one input device (18,20) of the automated banking machine (C4/L66-67, C5/L1-10), the at least one input corresponding to a request for cash, and subsequent to (d), dispensing the end note from the automated banking machine to the user for the purpose of identifying a user prior to dispensing notes (C5/L11-45).

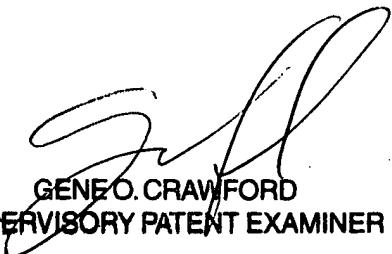
At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to dispense the end note from the automated banking machine to the user upon receiving from a user at least one input through at least one input device of the automated banking machine, the at least one input corresponding to a request for cash, as taught by Beskitt, in the method of Sugiura, for the purpose of identifying a user prior to dispensing notes.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie A. Nicholson III whose telephone number is 571-272-5487. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



GENE O. CRAWFORD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

L.N.
10/27/2005